

House Republican Press Release

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SENATE APPROVES REP. WINKLER LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS GROTON WATER ISSUES



On Wednesday, May 3, the State Senate gave unanimous approval to legislation introduced by State Rep. Lenny Winkler, R-Groton, that would help address public water issues in Groton. House Bill 5470, An Act Establishing A Drinking Water Quality Management Plan For The Town Of Groton, now goes to Governor M. Jodi Rell for final approval.

HB 5470 would help ensure water quality by requiring development of a formal drinking water management plan. The plan would establish a stronger partnership between water companies and stakeholders, such as the municipalities they serve, environmental groups, economic development agencies, developers, builders and property owners. It would also include managerial input from the state Department of Public Health and Department of Environmental Protection and provisions for the protection of critical public water supplies and land use planning.

During a March 6 public hearing, a representative from the state Department of Public Health (DPH) testified in strong support of the bill. DPH indicated the plan would balance the needs of the watershed communities for economic growth while making provisions for public health protection. The Town of Groton and Groton Utilities also publicly supported the bill during the hearing.

“This legislation creates a regional approach to addressing water quality in Southeastern Connecticut,” said Rep. Winkler. “It will empower communities to protect their water supplies and plan for public health issues in the long term.”